



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 19.3 Thursday, January 17, 2013

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

## VB School Board elects Mikulski as president

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

It took about 40 minutes on Monday for the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education to elect its officers for the year.

After two votes and lots of speeches, Brent Mikulski got the required 4 votes to be elected president. Former president Martha Toth received 3 votes.

Voting for Mikulski were Scott Russell, Kelly Owen, Sherry Frazier, and Mikulski. Voting for Toth were Kevin English, Kathy Kovach, and Toth.

Russell nominated Mikulski and Toth nominated herself and asked for the two candidates to be able to make statements.

Mikulski said he didn't want to make this a "him vs. her situation" but he thinks the board needs a president that supports the staff and superintendent and in the past couple of years it hasn't done so.

He said School Supt. Van Tassell has done a tremendous job of forming a team around himself. He said the board cannot continue to accept the status quo and needs to continue those changes being made. He said the president needs to unify the board.

He said they need to shift the focus from the board to what's happening in the district and work on sharing the wonderful things that are going on in the classrooms.

Mikulski said they have to stop having to explain the actions at the board table.

Toth spelled out her 35 years of background in education and said the board members need discourse and don't have to agree on every action they take.

She said providing quality education for the students is her top goal, followed by being a good steward and being helpful to the staff.

Toth has been board president since

(continued on page 3)



Independent photo by Diane Madigan

34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge David Parrott, at right, swore in the newly re-elected members of the Belleville Area District Library Board before the board's regular meeting on Jan. 8. From left are Michael Boelter and Joy Cichewicz of Sumpter Township, and John Juriga of the City of Belleville. Before swearing them in, Judge Parrott congratulated the three on their recent election, stating, "While the township board and the city council may be responsible for day-to-day government, in my view you have a wider, more forward-looking role. Libraries are the repositories of knowledge and without knowledge, the educators can't do their jobs. And, you have a very important role as the guardians of that repository. What you do is very important and very appreciated and with that I want to say, Thank You."

## Attorney Day: It could be a year before library site decision is ready

By Diane Madigan  
Independent Special Writer

Attorney John Day said he estimates it will be about a year before the Belleville Area District Library Board could bring a decision to the public on a proposed site for a new library.

At the District Library Board's regular meeting Jan. 8 Day was asked by Randy Brown how close the board was to bringing something to the public.

He gave a lengthy response, ending up with the estimate of a year.

Day said currently there are two sites that

are under consideration.

The site in the city is between Charles Street, the alleyway, and Third and Fourth streets, around the present site.

Then, there's the Department of Natural Resources property on Belleville Lake, just north of the Belleville Bridge, which Day called "a unique site".

"The Fishery Department of the DNR is very positive about trying to do something in conjunction with the library and do a cooperative development," he said.

"The problem is the site was originally acquired by the DNR in their recreational trust. A library is not included in their recreational purposes.

"The Fishery Department wants to move forward which involves removing (buying) the title out of the trust. Whether that means the DNR or the district library, we haven't

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## School Board votes to demolish Elwell at cost of \$185,300

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

Jule Schwartz of Jackson was chosen as the contractor that will tear down Elwell Elementary School.

His low bid was \$123,000. The school district added \$50,000 to the project for owner-directed abatement for hazardous materials and \$12,300 for owner-directed contingency costs, for a total of \$185,300.

All the costs will come from the Sinking Fund approved by voters for fixing up buildings and school sites.

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education voted 6-1 at Monday's meeting to accept the low bid and add-ons, with Treasurer Sherry Frasier voting no.

Frasier had tried to get the item removed from the agenda earlier in the meeting, but was unsuccessful. She said she wanted the board to delay action until they could see if the district could save the taxpayers the demolition cost by offering the building to Sumpter Township or other groups for other uses.

She also had asked for an appraisal on the property to see if it was worth more with or without the building.

But board members wanted to move forward.

Mary Ban of Sumpter spoke in the 2-minute time period allowed for her public comment before the main part of the agenda.

She said she called Gov. Snyder asking about whether five people could vote to demolish a school building after 50 years of the property owners paying taxes.

"People are very angry at you," Ban said to the board. "People are not going to vote for your issues."

She asked the board where they are getting the money to pay for the demolition and Frasier replied "the sinking fund", but newly elected president Brent Mikulski explained board members do not answer questions from the audience and, "Your two minutes are up."

Ban left the microphone and people in the audience clapped for her. She stated, "You won't get an answer."

(continued on page 3)

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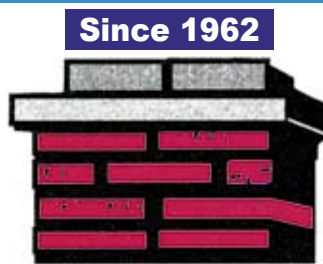
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## Brent Mikulski

(continued from page 1)

January 2011, after former president David Peer lost his re-election bid.

Supt. Van Tassel said it has been proposed to have paper ballots for voting for the officers, but Trustee Russell noted the board has never voted by paper ballots and the Open Meetings Act doesn't support that.

Van Tassel said he would read the votes and who cast each vote for the public record.

"That doesn't put pressure on the last person to vote," Toth explained.

But, when the first ballot was cast, Van Tassel found only six ballots of the seven board members who should be voting. Frazier decided to abstain and the vote turned out a 3-3 tie.

Russell told Frasier she has an obligation to vote.

Van Tassel said he had no power to make her vote.

Russell said if the board is unable to come to a majority decision it should go into recess and have the board attorney review the situation within 36 hours. No board business could be taken until this is straightened out.

Frasier then gave a lengthy explanation of her unwillingness to vote, stating they had one candidate with a lot of experience who has done a great job and another individual who has been on the board for just one year, but has good qualities.

"I didn't want to come. I shouldn't have come," Frasier said concerning attendance at that night's meeting. "I felt the angst we had before ... It's not good. It's not good. It's not healthy... that's why I chose to abstain... We're at a difficult point in our board juncture and we need to feel a part of the process..."

English said the board has an obligation to their 5,000 students and the community and it has the responsibility to elect a leader and the obligation to elect a leader who knows education.

He said they shouldn't put ambition over the best interests of the students, warning the school board's job isn't going to get any easier with all the things going on at the state level.

"We must take this responsibility very seriously," English concluded.

Russell pointed out Van Tassel is the most talented and the leader in the field of education and the school board's job is to provide policy, discipline, and, "Our responsibility as a board is quite limited."

He said the board's responsibility is for public relations whether they like it or not and they should remain professional in their conduct to serve the district well



Mikulski

and should conduct themselves in a civil manner.

Russell said the board president is the public face of the board, manages the meetings, and should reach out to all board members to make them feel included.

"I applaud the leadership over the last few years," Russell said, adding there have been employee concessions, closing of two school sites, building a beautiful new \$79 million high school, and appointing a new superintendent. He praised Toth for her efforts.

"But, we're at a crossroads now," Russell said. "We are, as a board, where we can implement real change."

The second ballot brought Frasier's vote for Mikulski that gave him the 4-3 tally he needed for election.

Toth then was elected vice president, English secretary, and Frasier treasurer – all by unanimous votes.

The board also approved regular meetings for the year at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of the month and work-study meetings at 7 p.m. on the third Mondays of the month.

## School Board

(continued from page 1)

"You can ask a question, but you won't get an answer," a lady called out.

Mikulski said the answer could be in the minutes of the last meeting if Ban wanted to check.

When the Elwell item came up on the agenda, Paul Wills of Plante Moran, who is advising the district on plans for use of the Sinking Fund, said the project was advertised for bids and 22 people came to see Elwell School during the Jan. 2 pre-bid meeting.

He said 13 bids were received on Jan. 4 and publically opened. Jule Schwartz's bid of \$123,000 was the lowest bid and Dore was the highest at \$218,800. Davenport of Belleville bid \$205,000.

Wills said \$200,000 had been budgeted from the Sinking Fund. Schwartz was a qualified bidder and had done other similar jobs.

Wills said Van Buren is not alone and other districts are demolishing closed buildings.

Martha Toth, who had just lost her position as board president and was now vice-president, said to the audience, "We do listen to our constituents once we join the board... We make decisions best for the district as a whole ... We are not thrilled to be making you so angry ... Just because you didn't get what you want doesn't mean we haven't listened to you."

In other business at Monday's meeting, the board:

- Approved the employer termination of custodian Ronny Brice after 1.5 years as of

Jan. 8;

- Approved the terminations of the following teachers: Andrea Brennan of McBride with 14 years of service as of Nov. 30 for personal reasons (Brennan pled guilty to sending a picture of her breast to a 15-year-old student and she now is on the Sex Offenders' List); Brooklyn Dobis after 4 years at BHS as of Nov. 30 for other employment; Melissa Benson a 1-year ancillary teacher as of Jan. 10 to pursue education; and Lynn Bradley after 12.5 years at BHS as of Jan. 8 for personal reasons;

- Approved employment of Stephanie Gomez at McBride as a Spanish teacher starting Jan. 17; Mylah Ivory at Owen as a social worker as of Jan. 7; Tiffany Rybicki at BHS for special education as of Jan. 7; and Khaii Mason at Owen as Math Intervention teacher as of Jan. 14;

- Approved the second reading and adoption of NEOLA Policy updates to stay in compliance with state law or attorney general's opinion;

- Was informed that regular board meetings will be videotaped for showing on cable as of the next meeting and the meetings may be able to be shown live. Before the board moved all meetings out of the high school during construction the board meetings had been cablecast by students;

- Heard Supt. Van Tassel give an update on building security. He said emergency plans have been in place for several years. He told of staff training, school drills, an armed city police officer on site, and locked doors. Van Tassel said the district is in the process of buying door monitoring systems for the four elementary schools, Owen, and McBride, so a secretary can see (on recorded video tape), talk, and buzz in a visitor. Those will cost a "couple thousand" for each school, he said. He is also looking at erecting security wall barriers in the corridors between the student body and the office, as one more safety barrier. The high school has a top-notch security system, he said. "The problem becomes what is reasonable without turning it into a prison," Van Tassel said. "Everyone's struggling and, again, there's no easy answer";

- Cancelled the Jan. 21 work/study session because of the Presidential Inauguration that day;

- Heard two bus drivers accuse the board and superintendent of not standing behind the transportation department employees. They invited the board and Van Tassel to ride on one of their buses to see what's going on. Lorrie Grzych and Jane Caldwell told of many things going wrong in their department, including the firing of bus drivers who try to keep the students in order and the firing last Friday of the new transportation director John Bojanowski who had been on the job just 17 weeks. "The children have taken control," they said after the meeting, noting sometimes when

a student is written up for misbehavior, the student's family goes to the administration building and doesn't tell the truth and the driver gets fired; and

- Went into executive session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, which states: "To consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute."



Belleville Area Museum Director Katie Dallos appeared before the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees at its Jan. 8 regular meeting to give information about her activities at the museum. She was being considered for full-time employment, a step up from the part-time position she held. Dallos had broken her foot and was present with her foot in a cast and her leg supported on a scooter. The board voted unanimously to make her full time with a salary of \$36,564 and health benefits.

## Yankee Air Museum seeks gear from Iraq, Afghanistan wars

The Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run Airport is asking veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars to donate some of their military gear to the museum.

Some veterans are stepping up but a lot more donations are needed, officials said.

The October 2004 fire destroyed a lot of the military collection at the museum and they are seeking to rebuild the displays.

The Yankee Air Museum is located at 47884 D Street at Willow Run Airport, 734-483-4030.



# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### VB School Board reels with problems

It took a long time for the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education to select a president at Monday's regular meeting — about 40 minutes. Lots of angst.

And, how they voted was new. Instead of voice voting there were paper ballots so Supt. Van Tassel could read off the votes and the voter. This was so the last voter wouldn't feel stressed out in casting the vote. Sounds like they anticipated a fight.

The seven-member board split 3-3 over two candidates and then the holdout voter finally decided to vote and broke the tie.

The new president announced a speaker could have two minutes to speak during the first of the two public comment sections. During her second comment, she asked a question on where the money was coming from to tear down Elwell School and he replied that her two minutes were up and she could probably find the answer in the minutes of the last board meeting.

He said members of the public could ask questions, but board members don't answer them.

A group of five members of the Transportation Department (actually one was just fired, so make that four) were present to ask the board for help since they feel unsupported by administration when they try to do their jobs. They said children threaten the bus drivers that they will get them fired — and then they do.

Something's not quite right in this school district and the board seems to have lost its way. The meetings will be shown on cable starting Jan. 28, so you can see for yourself what's going on.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Tracie Koehler of Atlantic Welding Supply in Sumpter is home and undergoing physical therapy after last summer's accident on I-94 where she was seriously injured.

"I'm lucky to be alive," she said last week.

Many people have been concerned over her well-being and so they will be happy to hear of her progress.

\*\*\*

I received a note from Jodi Varner who is on the planning committee for the 2013 Belleville Relay for Life. She said they have changed some things this year. First off, they have moved the date from May to June 22-23, but it's still at Quirk Park.

"The overall event will be the same, but we really want to get the community more involved since cancer touches so many people in our community," she wrote.

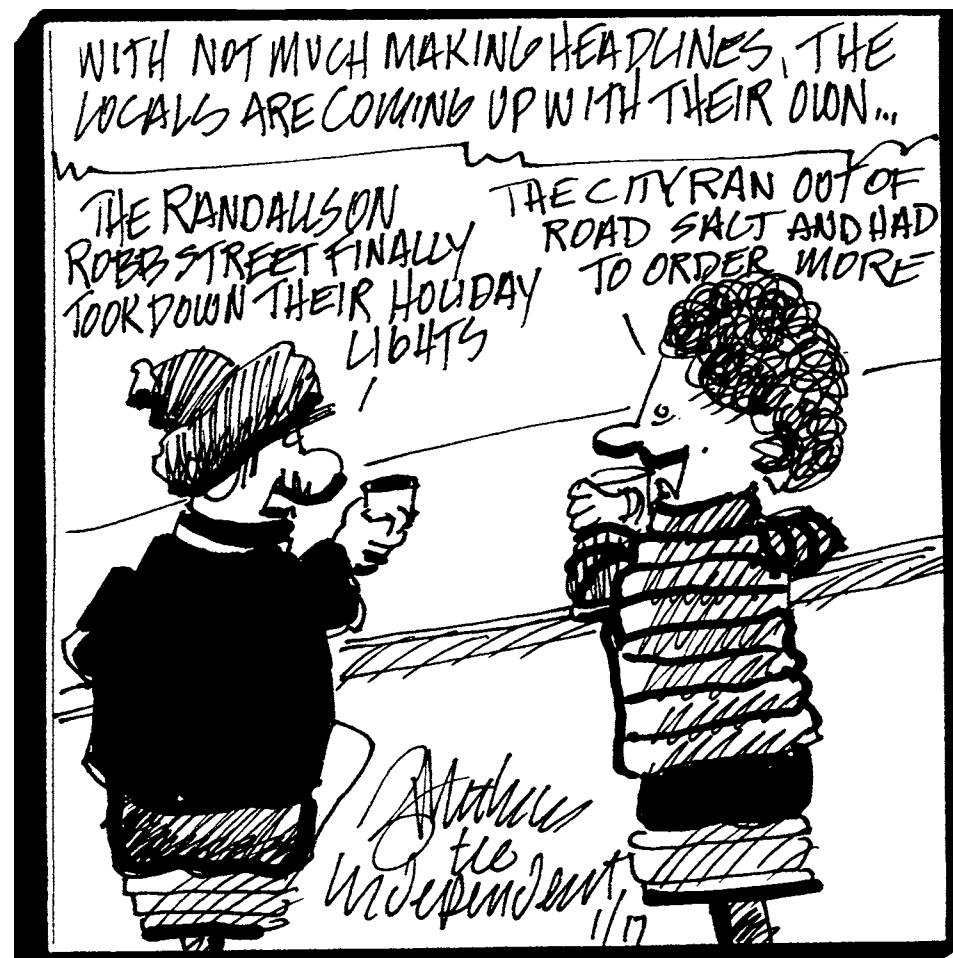
She suggested some ways to bring the Relay for Life into public awareness. She said she wants the community to feel more welcome to attend planning meetings and to want to get involved so this will be the best year yet.

All this is to say you will be hearing much more about Relay for Life this year as the date approaches. Heck, maybe you'll even be inspired to get involved.

\*\*\*

I made a mistake in a story that said Keystone Academy Charter School had 200 students that had transferred from the Van Buren Public Schools. That number was the 2003 total.

I've been told by a very good source that the number this year is about 450 students. If you multiply 450 times about \$7,000 per student in state aid, it's more than \$3 million VBPS has lost to the charter school



this school year.

The 450 students from Van Buren Public Schools represent 60% of the present Keystone student population. Two hundred students, 26% of the Keystone student population, came from the Lincoln Schools.

\*\*\*

A senior citizen came into our office on Friday to tell us about someone who has been calling her. She wanted to alert other seniors to the scam.

She said a woman, who didn't speak good English, called her on the phone. The caller addressed the senior by name and said she knew the senior had a Dell computer. The caller asked how many people used the computer and the lady said only one uses the computer because she lives alone. (Then she was sorry she told the stranger that she lives alone.)

The caller told the lady to turn on her computer because they needed to fix some errors.

The senior, who hardly ever uses her computer, said she had to go look at the computer to see if it was a Dell. It was. But, she felt uncomfortable turning it on, although the caller encouraged her to do so, saying she would help the senior go step by step to fix the errors.

The senior said she couldn't do it now, but to call her the next day at the same time. The senior told the caller she had her coat on and was heading out the door.

The caller did call the next day at the

agreed-upon time, but the senior didn't answer. The phone rang a bit later and she ignored it again.

The next day a man called and said he would help her with the errors, but she hung up.

She said she has seen alerts to scams that people have put into our paper and so she thought she'd warn others, so they aren't taken in by the calls. She said she didn't call the police because she didn't think they could do anything about it.

\*\*\*


Although Visteon announced last week that the board of its South Korean affiliate Halla Climate Control Corp. has agreed to absorb most of Visteon's automotive climate business, the 300 employees at Visteon's Van Buren Township offices will remain here.

Do you remember the days when we expected 4,000 Visteon employees at the Visteon Village location? Plans were for stores in the village for everyone to frequent, such as cleaners, banks, restaurants, etc. How things change.

\*\*\*

Jane Kovach, 90, is in Regency at Canton, Room 228, 45900 Geddes Road, Canton, 48188 following a head-on collision on Belleville Road that totaled her Mustang and broke Jane's pelvis.





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**BELLEVILLE - AREA  
INDEPENDENT**

Established Dec. 3, 1994      First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

**The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.**

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## Letters

### Help Belleville Fire Dept. Auxiliary earn \$

To the Editor:

The Belleville Fire Department Auxiliary has teamed up with Scentsy for a fundraiser to help the City of Belleville Fire Fighters and the community.

Scentsy is a wickless candle that offers hours of delightful smelling fragrances for your home or office, like baked apple pie, sugar cookie or blueberry cheesecake, to name a few.

The fundraiser will be available until March 26. Purchase these wonderful gifts for friends, coworkers or family. Scentsy has many wonderful products to choose from just in time for Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day, Easter or any special occasion.

An Open House will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Feb. 10 at the Fire Station for you to stop by and view some of the products, ask questions and purchase. You can also go online and order anytime between now and the March 26 deadline. The products will be directly shipped to your home or office.

Visit <https://arlovland.scentsy.us> and click on the "Buy from Party" link under Belleville Fire Department open parties on the home page. You can also call April Loveland at 734-620-5380 with any questions, to request a catalog or make a purchase. By purchasing through the fundraiser you will be helping the Fire Department and your community.

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Kimberly Keenmon

### Bus drivers need more toilets – and hand towels

To Whom This Matter Concerns:

We have around 100 staff members at Transportation; we have 2 restrooms that we have access to, 1 that is shared (unisex) which totals 3 toilets.

For weeks at a time one of these were out of commission, so that made the ratio of persons per day using each toilet 50 to 1, using the facilities only once a day, multiply the number of hours a day that some of us are there; that number increases greatly.

When there was need for a port-a-potty ONE was delivered. The interior had a posting which read: One potty per 10 employees.

Our office staff numbers 4, with 2 restrooms for their use. I don't see the logic.

This is a sore spot for many employees. We feel as if our needs are not being addressed. The restrooms are often out of service. In fact, we have no hand towels; there have been hand dryers installed, but one is not in working order.

A fellow employee has brought in cloth towels and launders them herself – not OSHA compliant.

We work on buses with students who sneeze, cough, and sometimes vomit on our buses. To be able to properly wash our hands and to dry them with a disposable towel before exiting the restroom is in great need, especially during the cold and flu season which is upon us.

Simple expectations of our employer, I would think. Keeping all healthier and with fewer days absent.

Thank you for hearing my opinion.

Stop in and view for yourself.

Cordially yours,

A Staff Member who wishes to remain anonymous (worried about retaliation)

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Transportation Department

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# Obituaries



Morrean Broome

## MORREAN FAITH BROOME

(September 13, 1917 - January 9, 2013)

Mrs. Broome was born on September 13, 1917 in Onaway, MI to Hugh Austin and Gertrude May (Dunn) Bowman. She was a Belleville resident for nearly 60 years.

Morrean is survived by one daughter Rowena Zimmerman-Cooper of Belleville; five grandchildren Angelique Whitt, William Cooper, Jason Helton, Jeremy Helton, and John Helton; and 12 great-grandchildren Joshua, John III, Jacob, Zachary, Devin, Christian, Heaven, Sara, Shyanne, Angel, Karolinia and Jacob John. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Broome was preceded in death by her husband Robert Helton; 9 children Morrean, Melvin, Joseph, Michael, Robert P., John W., along with 4 sons in infancy; a great-grandson Jason Helton; 3 sisters: Pandora, Arizona, and Edith; and 3 brothers Perry, Hugh and Willard. Mrs. Broome enjoyed babysitting, ceramics, needlepoint, and crossword puzzles along with watching and feeding the birds. She was devoted to the wants and needs of her family, and fellowshiping with friends.

The family received guests on Friday, January 11, 2013 from 3-8 PM at the David C. Brown Temporary Viewing Chapel. A funeral service was held Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 11 AM at First United Methodist Church with Pastor Jim Walker officiating. Burial followed at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

Donations in her memory may be made to the PIME Mission for children. Please sign her online guestbook and share a memory for her family to treasure at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).



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## HARRISON SMITH

(October 25, 1926 - January 11, 2013)

Age 86, WWII Army veteran. Survived by 9 children; 18 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great-grandchild. Predeceased by first wife Lyla; second wife, Julia Ann Smith, on Jan. 3, 2013. Brown FH.

## Quilts sought for display at museum's annual show throughout March

The 17<sup>th</sup>-annual Belleville Area Museum Quilt Show will take place March 1-28 and the museum is now looking for quilts to display.

Quilts will be accepted for display Feb. 12-15 and Feb. 19-23. Forms are available

to fill out to bring with the quilt.

The museum is open from 3 to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and noon to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays through Saturdays. If the quilts cannot be delivered at these times, call the museum at 734-697-1944 and a special time will be arranged.

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# Obituaries



Hubert I. Faulkner

## HUBERT ISAAC FAULKNER

(February 13, 1925 - January 7, 2013)

Hubert Isaac Faulkner, age 87, a lifelong Ypsilanti resident, passed away at Heartland Health Care Center, Ann Arbor, on Monday, January 7, 2013. He was born in Oneonta, AL on February 13, 1925 to Samuel Squire and Mary Jane (Gallups) Faulkner.

He is survived by one son Mike (Lynn) Faulkner of Willis, MI; 5 grandchildren Kristi, Stephanie, Jeff, Jason and Daniel. Also, 5 great-grandchildren Jordan, Bradley, Bella, Ethan and Jacob; a daughter-in-law Kathy Faulkner Jackson; and a brother Howard Faulkner.

Mr. Faulkner was a member of First Freewill Baptist Church in Ypsilanti and worked at the Ford Saline Plant for 18 years. He loved to take things apart and put them back together, such as his home furnace, just to prove he could do it! He also loved working with energy, even generating his own power. He also loved to camp and go on road trips with the RV.

Hubert was preceded in death by his wife, Nadine Faulkner in 2007; 1 son, Glenn Faulkner in 2010; 3 sisters Minnie, Cora and Louise; and 3 brothers Dewey, Euel and Eugene.

Visitation was at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI on January 10, 2013. Funeral services were Friday, January 11, 2013 at 1 p.m., with visitation one hour prior to the service. The Rev. Rex Evans of First Freewill Baptist Church officiated. Interment was in Highland Cemetery, Ypsilanti, MI.

Memorial donations may be made to the wishes of the family and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign Hubert's online guestbook and share a memory of him for his family to treasure at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).



Bernard J. Soja

## BERNARD J. SOJA

(August 15, 1920 - January 12, 2013)

Bernard John Soja, age 92, life-long New Boston/Belleville area resident, passed away Saturday, January 12, 2013 at Mercy Memorial Hospital, Monroe, MI. He was born August 15, 1920 in Detroit, MI, son of the late Kazimierz & Rozalia (Padauh) Soja.

Bernard was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville, and attended St. Stephen Catholic Church in New Boston as well. He was an Electrician for Ford Motor Company for many years and a member of the UAW Local 849. He was also a member of Farm Bureau and enjoyed farming, soy beans and corn. He also loved gardening and playing cards.

Mr. Soja is survived by his wife of 68 years, Antoinette "Toni" Victoria (Domski) Soja; three sons Fred Soja of New Boston and twins Donald Soja and Ronald (Henryka) Soja, both of Belleville; two grandsons Gregory Michael and Jacob Matthew Soja, both of Belleville; three sisters-in-law Clara Januszyk of Belleville, Stephanie Soja of Belleville and Lillian Soja of Taylor, MI; also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters Sophia Phelps-Karolyi and Catherine Karolyi, also three brothers George, Stanley and Edward Soja.

Visitation was 2-8 PM Tuesday at the David C. Brown Temporary Viewing Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Visitation was also 10-11 AM Wednesday at St. Stephen Catholic Church, 18858 Huron River Dr., New Boston, MI 48164 with an 11 AM Funeral Mass with Father John Hedges as Celebrant. Interment was in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family and would be appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for them to treasure at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).



Ronald Paul Coron

## RONALD P. 'ZIP' CORON

(October 27, 1945 - January 9, 2013)

Mr. Ronald Paul Coron was born October 27, 1945 in Manchester, Georgia, a son of Raymond Paul and Margaret Edith (Moody) Coron. Mr. Coron made his home in Belleville following his tour of duty in the United States Navy in 1967.

Mr. Coron was a member of the Belleville Moose Lodge. He enjoyed playing pool and riding his motorcycle. His passion was collecting cars and bikes. Prior to his retirement in 2005 he had been employed by Plasterers Local 67 for many years.

Mr. Coron is survived by his brother and 2 sisters Roger (Toni) Coron, Sylvia Shippy and Sandy (Chris) Marsh. Several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews also survive. Preceded in death by his son Roger Paul Coron on July 13, 2009.

Funeral service was held on Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 11 A.M. at the Higginson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St., Belleville (734-697-9400). Visitation was held on Friday, January 11, 2013 from 2 to 8 P.M. at the funeral home. Cremation followed.

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## JOSEPH R. SKSZEK

(June 17, 1930 - January 13, 2013)

Joseph Raymond Skszek, age 82, life-long Belleville resident, passed away Sunday, January 13, 2012 at Superior Woods Nursing Care Center, Ypsilanti, MI. He was born June 17, 1930 in Belleville.

Joe worked as an Electrician for many years and was a member of the Electrician's Union Local 58. He enjoyed farming 15 acres in Sumpter Township, feeding his neighbor's cattle, and was a hard worker. He loved yard sales and auctions and time spent at Mike's Red Apple with his friends over coffee.

Joe is survived by his wife of 38 years, Eulene Catherine (Cotey) Skszek; three daughters Debbie, Linda and Lori; his wife's daughter Penny J. Loeb of North Muskegon, MI; several grandchildren; a brother Walter (Dorothy) Skszek of Belleville; a sister Stephanie Soja of Belleville; also numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Visitation will be 10 AM until Noon Thursday, January 17, 2013 at the David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, with a Noon Funeral Service. Burial will take place in Maple Grove Cemetery, Munising, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a story for his family to cherish at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).

## KATHLEEN JUNE GOLDEN

(June 28, 1918 - January 15, 2013)

Mother of 3 children Jerry and Alvin Golden and the late Gladys Frazer; 6 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren. Viewing 4-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17; service 11 a.m. Friday. Brown Temporary Viewing Chapel.

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# Sumpter sells medical building, 1.538 acres to Joe Nasser for \$125,000

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

The long-vacant Wayne County Health Center at 19130 Sumpter Road has been sold by its present owner, Sumpter Township, to Joe Nasser for \$125,000.

Nasser, who owns the gas station / pharmacy / market at the corner of Willis and Sumpter roads and the gas station at the corner of Sumpter and Hull roads, plans to renovate the building for a private medical clinic.

Sumpter Township bought the building and almost 11 acres from the county for \$25,000 several years ago. Township officials offered the building as a satellite library site to the Belleville Area District Library board, but was told the building's floor would not be strong enough to support books and the location wasn't far enough into the township to be centralized.

At the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees regular meeting Jan. 8, the board voted unanimously to sell the building and 1.538 acres for a parking lot to Nasser.

The township retains 9.386 acres, which includes space for a drive from Sumpter Road to the rear of the property for possible future use.

Nasser had purchased the property for his gas station/pharmacy/market from Sumpter Township for \$10,000 and worked closely with the township to build it the way Sumpter wanted. Township attorney Rob Young said Nasser will work closely with the township on his medical center, as well.

In a related discussion, Trustee Bill Hamm wanted to upgrade the use of Nasser's LED sign at the corner of Willis and Sumpter roads, since Nasser had said half of the sign was for township use and half for his business use.

Currently two township employees are assigned the task of putting township information on the sign and Hamm said the sign has a lot more capability and he'd like to improve the usage.

He said he likes the way Belleville does its LED events sign at the corner of Main and High streets. He was told Downtown Development Authority Coordinator Carol Thompson does the city's sign and so he said he would talk to her.

While Belleville has a direct hookup from city hall to the sign, in Sumpter the changes need to be made on a laptop computer and then the laptop has to be taken to the sign for uploading.

Hamm said he could check with Belleville High School to find a student who was good with computers or graphics to pay a minimum wage to change the sign on a regular basis.

Clerk Clarence Hoffman said Sam Cumberlund, who records township meetings for showing on cable television, could do the sign and Cumberlund said he would look at it. Cumberlund said he offered to put movies from local events on the sign and he was told it would be a traffic hazard.

"No one on this board would object to putting Sumpter up another notch," said Supervisor Johnny Vawters. The board voted unanimously to support Hamm's study of how to upgrade the sign's use.

In other business at the Jan. 8 meeting the board:

- Approved, with regret, the retirement of Police Officer Philip Jablonski, effective Feb. 1. Trustee Peggy Morgan and Treasurer John Morgan praised Jablonski's service. "He is a very effective officer and a good fit for Sumpter Township," Treasurer Morgan said, making a motion that a plaque be presented to him to recognize his work. Lt. Eric Luke said Jablonski came to the Sumpter Police Department in 2005 after 30 years in the Sheriff's Department. "He's nothing but a professional officer," Lt. Luke said, adding, "He has been a steadying influence for our young officers. He is a unique individual";

- Approved hiring Scott Beckington as interim mechanical inspector and Bernard Zarb as interim plumbing inspector, with Hoffman voting no on the Zarb hire;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointments of Jane Stalmack, Matthew Oddy, and Tyrone Borden to terms on the planning commission;

- Approved the 2013 SMART Specialized Services contract;

- Approved paying warrants of \$1,633,705.29 and other warrants through January;

- Heard Hamm announce that the Building Department needs \$4,000-\$5,000 a month to pay for itself and last month it earned \$9,000, so the department is doing better;

- Heard a presentation during the workshop session by Tonia Cramier and Ken Marx who offer free assistance to low-income people who need help with food, housing, jobs and other pressing needs. They have a veterans' program, as well. The Community Resource Center District Office is located in Building C at 416 Sumpter Road in Belleville. To make an appointment, call 734-524-0038. They are open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday. They passed out a community needs survey, asking people to fill it out and send it to them;

- Heard Deputy Supervisor Craig Moody announce that volunteers served 180 dinners at the PNA Hall for the Christmas dinner and sent home 40 food baskets with those attending. Three days later he and Randy Lunch delivered another 30 baskets to needy residents;

- Also heard Moody report that he received a letter from Wayne County which turned down the township's request for a left turn signal at the Bemis/Sumpter intersection to help with traffic to and from Keystone Academy;

- Was reminded by Trustee Don Swinson that the Parks and Recreation fundraising Mardi Gras party would be at the PNA Hall on Feb. 9; and

- Heard Mary Sherwood talk about the postcard she received in the mail from the

State about possible elimination of her Homestead Property Tax Credit. She was told that would be part of her income tax filing, but she probably will not be cut off.

## Sumpter will get check for \$188,224 from State for dispatch cooperation

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

Sumpter Township has received a letter from the State of Michigan alerting it that it will get the full amount it has requested for merging Sumpter's emergency dispatch service with Huron Township's dispatch service.

After the State receives copies of the township's cancelled checks and receipts for the expenses, the State will cut a physical check for \$188,224 and send it to Sumpter, said Deputy Treasurer Karen Armatis.

She said township officials may make a giant check for the ceremonial presentation at an upcoming township board meeting because the money has been anticipated for some time.

At the Jan. 8 Sumpter Township regular board meeting, Supervisor Johnny Vawters announced that Sumpter received a Dec. 10 letter from the Department of the Treasury saying Sumpter will be getting its full

award for the dispatch project.

Vawters said the expenses for the dispatch project, that were submitted to the State and will be reimbursed, are:

- Police - \$75,970;
- Fire Dept. - \$106,312;
- Legal - \$5,400; and
- AT&T - \$542.

## Sumpter planners reset new Zoning Ordinance hearing for March 14

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

A public hearing to consider the new Sumpter Township Zoning Ordinance has been reset for 6:35 p.m., March 14, at the Sumpter Township Hall.

A new zoning map will also be ready for consideration at that hearing.

Originally, the hearing had been set for Jan. 10, but because the township was closed over the holidays, the required public notice was not printed and the hearing could not be held.

At the Jan. 10 Sumpter Township Planning Commission meeting the new date was approved, giving extra time so the zoning map could be prepared to be discussed, as well.

The commission has been working on  
(continued on page 9)

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## Sumpter plan

(continued from page 8)

updating the Zoning Ordinance with planning consultant Laura Kreps of Carlisle Wortman for about a year and a half and now it's ready for the public to consider – all 307 pages of it.

Kreps said all the changes suggested by the planners have been incorporated in the ordinance, as well as everything to comply with new state laws.

Copies of the ordinance are available at the township hall for review before the meeting. The commission will take into consideration comments from the public at the hearing.

After the planning commission approves the ordinance it will be sent on to the township board for final action.

Among the many, many changes in the ordinance:

- Outdoor furnaces are not allowed in R-2 zoning, but some are already in place in that zoning. People will be able to come in for variances. The requirement for furnaces to

be 200' from the property line will make it impossible for lots that have the minimum 150' lot width under this part of the new ordinance;

- Roadside stands will need parking off the road right of way and driveways can be used. Kreps said the township can't get too picky with this requirement since farmers will just cite the Right to Farm Act;

- The library parking requirement is one space per 500 square feet of floor area. Planning Commissioner Joy Cichewicz, who also sits on the Belleville Area District Library Board, said she likes that requirement. She said other communities (City of Belleville and Van Buren Township) have requirements that are too high; and

- The new sign ordinance is quite strict on electronic signs, not allowing scrolling and only allowing one color and six-second messages. Township Trustee Bill Hamm set off on a township board-supported project earlier last week to enliven the LED sign at the corner of Willis and Sumpter roads, since it is supposed to be half used by

the township and he thinks it has greater capabilities. "Let's see what he comes back with," said Trustee Alan Bates, who is a member of the planning commission, referring to Hamm's project which seems to be in conflict with the new ordinance.

At the end of the hour-long meeting on Jan. 10, Commissioner Matthew Oddy said he had asked for information on a property, to find out if it was licensed with the township, and he got a response from ordinance officer Randy Lynch. The reply said sometime in 2007-8 a new policy was adopted by the township board, but, Oddy said, there was no paperwork and nothing in writing provided. Lynch also said it was not against the law to cover equipment for the winter months.

"We need to know what the board policy was," Oddy said, and Commission chairwoman Jane Stalmack agreed that he did not get enough information.

At the December planning commission meeting, Oddy said he was going to submit a question on their new question forms on the status of Sheena Barnes' business at the entryway to the township at the corner of Sumpter and Oakville Waltz roads. The equipment covered with blue tarps bothered him.

A resident attended the Jan 10 meeting to find out the status of the chicken farm near his home on Karr Road. He had questions about the zoning. It's Agricultural, like almost everyone on Karr Road.

Stalmack said the owner of that property went under the state's Right to Farm Act, so the township had little information on what was going on there. But, the project has lost its license through the state.

## Craig's List transaction leads to larceny in Van Buren Township

Police believe an expensive pair of Cartier sunglasses were thrown out of the window of a moving vehicle just before midnight on Jan. 9 in the route from Meijer's to the corner of Tyler and Haggerty roads. They are still missing.

This is what happened, according to Van Buren Township Police Lt. Ernie Thornsburg.

A local man who was trying to sell a pair of Cartier sunglasses on Craig's List called the police on Jan. 9 reporting he had just been ripped off.

Lt. Thornsburg said it is still an open case, but this is what he can report.

The local man set up a meeting for a person who wanted to buy the glasses for \$900. They met at the Van Buren Township Meijer store.

The suspect grabbed these glasses and ran to a running vehicle in the Meijer lot. The seller was able to follow and get a license plate.

Lt. Thornsburg said police were able to stop the suspect vehicle at Tyler and Haggerty roads and two people were taken into custody.

But, the sun glasses were not recovered. "We believe they were thrown from the moving suspect vehicle. We could not find them," Lt. Thornsburg said.

## Pet of the Week

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Photo courtesy Belleville High School  
Students show off some of the spirit wear that will be on sale at "The Eye of the Tiger" student store at Belleville High School. The grand opening is 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 22, and the public is invited to stop by. From left are Austin Cooke, Hunter Cole, Danielle Martin, Bailey Hunt, Abel Camargo, and Sheree Nicholson.

## BHS store invites public to drop by during grand opening on Jan. 22

Atchinson Ford is sponsoring the Jan. 22 grand opening of the student-run store at the new Belleville High School and the public is invited between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., lunchtime at BHS.

Angie Mazurek, the BHS marketing

teacher who directs the store, called "The Eye of the Tiger", said there will be raffles for oil changes for the students and Atchinson is providing donuts to the high school staff at the beginning of the day from Tim Horton's on Rawsonville Road.

Any community member who comes in between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 22 will receive a coupon from Atchinson for a free tire rotation with the purchase of an oil change.

"It's great working with the Ford people. They're wonderful," said Mazurek. "We're very appreciative in having the community helping us out."

The school store features student spirit wear, including all kinds of things with BHS logos and tigers, including sweatshirts and hoodies. They also sell school supplies and healthy snacks, such as granola and yogurt.

Mazurek said the store will be open during lunch hour and future plans will have it open before and after school, as well.

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Psalm 33:12a

**If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**

2 Chronicles 7:14

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**January 20-23, 2013**

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MONDAY, JAN. 21  
**TYNDALE**  
7PM

TUESDAY, JAN. 22  
**SPURGEON**  
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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23  
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Mark Bernstein was sworn in Sunday by Michigan Supreme Court Judge Bridget Mary McCormick.

## Sumpter man to become Bernstein field rep.

To the Editor:

On 1/13/13 Mark Bernstein was sworn in at his Ann Arbor home by newly elected Michigan Supreme Court Judge Bridget Mary McCormick with many relatives, friends and supporters present including Congressman John Dingell and Debbie along with UAW President Bob King.

I worked as Mark's bus driver though the entire campaign keeping the bus at the end of my driveway on Martinsville in Sumpter. I was so sure it would be vandalized, but nothing serious ever happened, it did get egged once (4 eggs).

Honorable mention to Ron at Busted Knuckle Auto Repair for repairs after the campaign. On Nov. 6 the charging

system completely failed. The day before there was a good portion of the Michigan Democratic ticket on that bus including Senator Stabenow traveling from Grand Rapids to rallies in Lansing and Flint.

The Bernsteins have been great to work with and I am starting work for the firm soon as a field representative.

Tom Elliott

Sumpter Township

**Editor's Note:** Mark Bernstein's bright yellow school bus was in the Strawberry Festival Parade last June as he ran for a seat on the University of Michigan Board of Regents. He won his seat and now is sworn in. Tom said he lost his job last May and answered an ad on Craig's List. That's when he met a smiling Mark Bernstein and the rest is history.

death on the property, it is not required to disclose -- unless the buyer asks a specific question to the Realtor, concerning the incident. At that point, the Realtor must answer the question HONESTLY.

In your future home shopping, it is a good idea to check with the municipality, schools, and police department for additional information and crime data of the homes you have interest in. Speaking to some neighbors may also give you additional insight to the nearby, area and community.

-- Angela

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## New BHS Fitness Center now open to the public

Belleville High School's new Fitness Center is now open and available to the public. The cost is \$5 per person per day.

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I am here to answer questions pertaining to buying or selling real estate. Send your questions to "Ask Angela", c/o Belleville-Area Independent, 152 Main Street, Ste. 9, Belleville 48111 or send me an email at [nettroandco@comcast.net](mailto:nettroandco@comcast.net). I'll answer questions in this column.

**Question from Erica in Van Buren Township:** I am currently looking at homes to buy. I looked at a home I liked, and later through a friend, found out that there was a murder in the home. I was quite upset. I was never informed by the Realtor. Is it required that the Realtor has to disclose this to potential buyers?

**Answer:** Erica, there is no question on the seller's disclosure information form- to the buyer, that pertains to any prior crimes or deaths occurring on the premises. It is possible that the Realtor did not know. If the Realtor did know of the undisclosed crime/

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**HEAD TO THE BAYOU FOR THE BIG GAME!**



## VBT planners send new commission rules back to the drawing board

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

The updated Rules and Procedures for the Van Buren Township Planning Commission have been sent back to the drawing board again to make sure the document is exactly the way it should be before approval.

The Rules and Procedures, last updated in 2008, were updated most recently on Oct. 24. The update put the vice chairman (currently Donald Boynton) in charge of keeping order in the meetings and keeping track of time as a "sergeant at arms". That title was later removed.

The update came about after chairwoman Carol Thompson had to call the police on audience member John Delaney who she determined was out of order.

The wording on the role of the township supervisor also was changed.

It is required that the township board approve the Rules and Procedures before implementation and, at a recent meeting, the township board thought it wasn't quite right and sent the update back to the commission for changes.

At the Jan. 9 meeting of the Planning Commission, Terry Carroll, Director of Planning and Economic Development, presented a newer version crafted by township attorney Patrick McCauley that "takes care of the problem of what happens when the vice chairperson deems someone's



Independent photo by James Oztman

The signs are up now at the new Belle Tire building as work resumes at the site across Belleville Road from Taco Bell and Applebee's. Construction was held up for a time until the business and Wayne County worked out a suitable storm water plan for the back of the lot.

behavior a problem and the chairperson doesn't." It also took care of the issues involving the township supervisor's role on the planning commission.

But, Carroll said, Commission Secretary Bryon Kelley called earlier that day to say there is a problem with Article III, Section 5 which says the secretary shall sign all approved site plans and that hasn't been done for some time. Kelley was absent because his child was ill.

Commissioner Kenneth Guenther also checked to make sure the wording "newspaper of general circulation within Van Buren Township" referred to the approved newspaper of record. He was assured it did.

The document will be updated and return to the commission for approval and then

sent back to the township board, hopefully to be approved.

In other business at the Jan. 9 meeting, the commission:

- Approved the final site plan for the addition of a second, side-by-side, drive-up order lane for the McDonald's at 2193 Rawsonville Road. The plans include two sites for trailer or RV parking, since the site is less than a half mile from the freeway. McDonald's also is proposing the use of catch basin inserts that filter the stormwater runoff before it enters Belleville Lake. This is the first project that has proposed the use of catch basin inserts to provide some form of storm water quality improvement and Carroll said the township is very interested to see how the inserts perform over time. Carroll said McDonald's was being used

as a guinea pig and future businesses might be required to use them, too; and

- Discussed discontinuing work on the former Abandoned Structures ordinance since it requires a lot of effort to make it ready for approval by the township board and may no longer be necessary. Carroll said the problem has really subsided and become more manageable as the number of vacant houses has dwindled significantly in the past months. "Also, it will be very difficult to enforce many of the provisions of this ordinance language without additional staff and I don't see that happening any time soon," Carroll wrote in a memo. "I do not think that there is a need for such an amendment at this time ..."

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# Library Board

(continued from page 1)

gotten that far yet," Day continued.

"The DNR has had the appraisal since November. Hopefully this will be completed in the next week or so. From there we will sit down with the DNR to structure an agreement to remove the property from the trust and move forward to develop some kind of a joint agreement with the fishery department."

Day said the board also has had broad discussions with Sumpter Township about the satellite facility, as well as Van Buren Township and its Downtown Development Authority.

"Until we get a site hammered down

it's hard to sit down for a substantive conversation," Day said.

"Hopefully within the next four to six weeks we will be able to schedule a series of meetings to determine if this is a workable deal or not. Ultimately the board will put together a proposal and take it to the voters."

"The Belleville site also has its issues with site acquisition and demolition."

"On both sites, a year is probably a safe estimate," Day concluded.

Brown then asked if building in phases has been considered. Both Chairman Mary Jane Dawson and board member Christina Brasil said that has been considered but they would still need to purchase enough property to complete the building.

Attorney Day added that the DNR site, if workable, may be a joint operation. The DNR apparently wants the waterfront for fishing on the lake and the library wants to use the uplands. Parking and bathrooms could be shared costs, he said.

During public comment, George Chedraue asked for clarification on the location for the main library. He said the agreement states that if the main library should be located south of Hull Road then a satellite facility could be located north of I-94. He said he understands that to mean that the main library could be in Sumpter Township.

Attorney Day read directly from the agreement: *Any new main library building shall be located south of the I-94 freeway either in the Charter Township of Van Buren or in the City of Belleville and the satellite building should be in Sumpter Township. In the event that it is determined that the new main library should be located south of Hull Road, then a satellite facility could be located north of I-94.*

Diane Madigan asked if there were any provisions in the agreement for changing the location for the main building.

"It seems like you have been looking for a spot and maybe if there is something north of I-94 you could get together and change the agreement," she said.

Day said there are provisions for changes

but believes at the present time they have not exhausted the possibilities within the agreement.

## Audit report

In other business at the Jan. 8 meeting, CPA Ron Traskos reviewed the Plante Moran audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012.

He said total revenue of \$963,391 is down \$100,147 or 9.5% from 2011. Total expenses of \$893,358 are up \$9,958 or 1% over 2011. Revenue was in excess of expenditures, resulting in an increase to the fund balance of \$54,762 for a total fund balance of \$690,866. Traskos said the expenses were very controlled.

He said the economic factors in the audit report warn that property tax levies are expected to decrease an additional 4.7% or approximately \$30,000 for the three communities in 2013.

During the fiscal year the library purchased books and periodicals, made building improvements and purchased computer equipment, raising the new capital assets by \$24,742 for a total of \$625,029. The full accrual net assets are \$1,274,868.

## Board elections

Since this was the first meeting of the year, the board elected officers for one-year terms. Dawson, who has been chairman since the board was formed, remains chairman. Brasil was nominated for reelection to the vice chairman position but declined the nomination and nominated Joseph Monte, who was then elected. Joy Cichewicz remains the secretary and Elaine Gutierrez remains the treasurer.

Gutierrez said she was glad to see that term limits would be discussed with possible bylaw changes.

"Definitely a treasurer should have term limits, no doubt about it. I'll accept it for this year just to keep things straight, but that's it."

"You do a great job and we're grateful," said board member Michael Boelter.

Assignments to standing committees were: Finance – Gutierrez, Brasil; Marketing – Boelter, Gutierrez, Juriga;

Personnel – Boelter, Monte; Bylaws – Monte, Cichewicz; Policy – Brasil, Monte, Boelter; and Building – Boelter, Juriga, Cichewicz.

The Bylaw Committee presented a draft of changes to the bylaws for board discussion. A very lengthy discussion ensued around term limits for officers.

The wording presented allows for three consecutive one-year terms. Gutierrez was adamant about the need for term limits saying it should not be a long-term position.

Juriga and Dawson spoke against term limits. Cichewicz said she could see it both ways and read a report from the Michigan Library Trustee Manual: *Wise boards rotate officers to keep new ideas flowing and to educate members in all aspects.*

Attorney Day suggested the need to spell out the length of term limits. He said he worries about cross-training and becoming insufficient in some regard.

"You may want to think about continuity to work on large projects like building and bond issues, negotiating issues with the DNR," he said. "The idea of institutional memory is important, as it keeps you from making the same mistakes over again."

Chedraue said he believes that continuity is important and no one is saying that you can't help each other. Every once in a while there should be new blood and new ideas, he said.

Cichewicz wanted to go on the record: "When we're talking about term limits, I'm approaching this not as a personal issue, but as a philosophical way to run the library. I think you've been a fabulous chair. I just want to say, we do have a good working group and you've done a fabulous job."

No decision on term limits was made and the subject may come back at another time.

It was agreed that the Building Committee should be a standing committee. There were typos and grammar changes made in the proposed bylaw changes, so it will be edited and brought back to the next meeting.

The next regular meeting of the library board is at 7 p.m., Feb. 12, at the library.

## Bethany Bible Church basketball camps

Bethany Bible Church in Belleville is still taking registrations for its basketball camp, geared for children, ages 5-11.

The camp, which opened last weekend, will run through March 31.

The cost is \$40 per child. Three sessions are available: 8:30 - 9:45 p.m. for 5-6 year olds, 10 - 11:15 a.m. for 7-8 year olds, and 11:30 a.m.- 12:45 p.m. for 9-11 year olds.

Participants will also learn the fundamentals of the game, gain confidence, develop good sportsmanship, and build friendships, while learning the skills of dribbling, passing, shooting, rebounding and defensive tactics.

The season will consist of 4 weeks of clinical instruction, 2 weeks of games, T-shirt, snacks, and refreshments.

Registration can be made in person at the church, located at 810 East Huron River Drive. Call (734) 697-7456.

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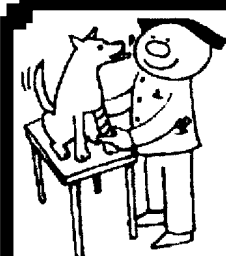
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### Upcoming Clinics:

**PET SPA 2, 970 Sumpter Rd., BELLEVILLE, Sun., Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, 4-6 p.m.**

**PET RESORT, 50425 Bemis Rd., BELLEVILLE, Sun., Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, 3-6 p.m.**

**NEW FLU VACCINE FOR DOGS AVAILABLE**

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**CAT NEUTERS - \$35**

# Employee found hanging after suicide during lunch break at Fox Auto

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

A 31-year-old Sumpter Township man who was suffering from mental illness hung himself during his lunch break at Fox Auto Parts on Jan. 7.

Sumpter Township Police Detective John Toth said family members said the man had gone to the hospital for help four days earlier, but was turned away because no beds were available. He was scheduled for outpatient treatment at the end of the month.

Det. Toth said the man spent time with his family members over the weekend and then went to work on Monday. Toth said Fox Auto Parts, at 8111 Rawsonville Road, has an organized lunch break and it was assumed the worker went to lunch.

After lunchtime, when they couldn't reach him by radio, they noticed his timecard indicated he didn't go to lunch and started looking for him.

A young employee found him and called for help. He and two other coworkers got him down.

Toth said Joe Fox was very concerned with the effect of this shock on his employees. Toth said Fox employs a handful of paid-on-call fire fighters and one of them brought in some pamphlets to distribute to help.

Toth said the deceased employee had children and so the situation is very sad.

Toth said the family later found out that when he filled out the paperwork at the hospital where he had been before in Oakland County, he did not check the suicide box which would have gotten him prompt care.

## Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, Jan. 17 – Special meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., to consider the second amendment to the Detroit Water and Sewer contract.
- Monday, Jan. 21 – Martin Luther King day observed.
- Tuesday, Jan. 22 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, VBT Water & Sewer Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 23 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

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Jan. 16 – Duane L. Montri  
Jan. 24 – Peggy Simon  
Jan. 28 – Pastor Jim Lockard

Do you have a birthday in January? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

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## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
COUNTY OF WAYNE STATE OF MICHIGAN  
ORDINANCE NO. 12-11-2012**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE 6-2-92, AS AMENDED,  
OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN**

Second Reading for adoption of Ordinance 12-11-2012.

An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6-2-92 as amended of the Charter Township of Van Buren to amend and modify provisions and requirements of Section 4.24b Wireless Communication Facilities and to modify Section 4.31.D Colocation Administrative Approval.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN HEREBY ORDAINS:

|            |                                    |     |
|------------|------------------------------------|-----|
| SECTION 1. | WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES  | ADD |
| SECTION 2. | COLOCATION ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL | ADD |
| SECTION 3. | CONFLICTS                          | ADD |
| SECTION 4. | SEVERABILITY                       | ADD |
| SECTION 5. | EFFECTIVE DATE                     | ADD |

This ordinance shall be effective upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township.

This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting, called and held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2013.

YEAS : Miller, McClanahan, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and Combs.  
NAYS : None.  
ABSENT: None.  
ABSTAINED: None.

This Ordinance shall be immediately recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Ordinance Book as soon as it is adopted, which record shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Supervisor and Clerk and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township within ten (10) days after passage.

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance.

Leon Wright, Clerk

Linda H. Combs, Supervisor

Adopted: 1/8/2013.  
Published: 12/20/2012 & 1/17/2013.  
Effective: 1/17/2013.



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**(734) 787-1444**

### PRIVATE COLLECTOR

**Pays Cash For Sports Cards And Comic Books. I Prefer Items 1975 & Older, But Will Consider Anything. Mike 697-3546 Eves.**

**WANTED** - SHOTGUNS & RIFLES. Paying Cash. Call Jim. (734) 216-4166 1/24

**WANTED** - PERSON TO TAKE over lease of one bedroom apt. If approved, will pay February rent for you. Call Kevin (734) 612-1540 1/24

## FREE

BETTY GULLIVER JACKSON ST. YOU'VE Won a dozen free roses. Pick them up at Main St. Flower's downtown, Belleville. (734) 697-7400 or [www.mainstreetflowersbelleville.com](http://www.mainstreetflowersbelleville.com) TFN

**FREE TO LOVING HOME.** 4 yr. old Russian Blue. Moving - Cannot take. (734) 697-5157 1/24

## FOUND

Female 3 LEGGED BLACK CAT, very friendly. Vicinity of Hoeft Rd. between Huron River Dr. & Bog Rd. (734) 674-4425 1/24

LG. GREY LONG HAIR CAT was found deceased near Belleville & Harmony Lane Rds. Just to notify owner. 1/31

**THE BELLEVILLE INDEPENDENT NOW ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS!**  
(Minimum \$5 Purchase, Classified Ads Excluded)



## FOR RENT

**NEW BOSTON - 1 BR. DUPLEX.** C/A & Heat. 1 mile from freeway. Available December 1st. \$500/mo. Plus security. (734) 740-3515 TFN

**LAKEFRONT - 1 BR. APT.** Newly re-modeled. 91 Potter St. #1. No Pets, No Smoking. \$675/mo. Includes heat. (734) 287-6619 (Garner Properties) or [www.garnerproperty.com](http://www.garnerproperty.com) 1/31

**UPDATED 2 BR. 1 BATH HOUSE** on Main St. Living Rm, Dining Rm., Office, All appliances. \$775/mo. plus security. No Pets. Call Dave (734) 740-1716 1/17

**BEAUTIFUL 2 BR. TOWNHOUSE.** Enclosed private yard/deck, pool & Free storage. See It Now. \$850/mo. Plus security. (734) 697-8529 1/17

## FMAR finds homes for 317 dogs & cats in 2012

To the Editor:

Thought you animal lovers would appreciate this information: 317 animals adopted in 2012!

### Animal intakes

4th quarter -- Dogs = 24, Cats = 46

YTD -- Dogs = 135, Cats = 195

### Animal Adoptions

4th quarter -- Dogs = 28, Cats = 69

YTD -- Dogs = 134, Cats = 183

Linda Luke  
Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue

## HELP WANTED

### HIRING IMMEDIATELY

**Dedicated & Reliable Bus Drivers for Permanent Positions for Van Buren Public Schools. Starting Pay: \$11.50/hour. Call 734-699-5100**

**AREA TRAINEE** for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800 TFN

**TRUCK DRIVER - MUST HAVE** CDL class A license. Pulling 53' Semi- Trailer. Home Every Night. (734) 461-9402 1/10

**HAIR STYLIST - LOOKING FOR** A fun, friendly environment to work. Please Call (734) 697-7007 2/07

**CRYOGENIC TRANSPORTATION LLC: Has an immediate need for Class A CDL drivers** out of MONCLOVA, OH We offer Local, Regional & OTR positions, competitive pay, medical benefits for you and your family, paid training on product handling, paid uniforms, paid vacations, 401K & MORE! Requirements: 2 years Tractor-Trailer experience, Tank & Hazmat endorsements (or ability to obtain) & Safe Driving Record. APPLY NOW at [TheKAG.com](http://TheKAG.com) or call Recruiting at (800) 871-4581 1/24

## HELP WANTED

### DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT

Feel good about the work that you do. Support persons we serve in residential settings. Country home. Training provided. \$8.00 total per hr. plus good benefits.

**Call (734) 753-4804 New Boston**  
**Email resume to: [recruiter@questserv.org](mailto:recruiter@questserv.org)**

## HELP WANTED

### DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT

Join the team. Assist persons we serve in their home and community. \$8.00 total per hr. plus good benefits.

**Call (734) 699-3808 or (734) 699-6543 Belleville.**  
**Email resume to: [recruiter@questserv.org](mailto:recruiter@questserv.org)**

# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 8, 2013

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent: None. Others in attendance: DPW Director MacDonald, Public Safety Director McClanahan, Museum Director Dallos, Planning and Economic Development Services Director Carroll, Executive Assistant\ Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Attorney McCauley, Secretary Cline and an audience of seventeen (17).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the removal of New Business Item #4 "Consider approval of the employment agreement between the Charter Township of Van Buren and Jennifer Zaenglein as Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement." Carried.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Wright moved, Hart seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes December 10, 2012; Closed Session Minutes December 10, 2012; Special Board Meeting Minutes December 11, 2012; Adoption of Resolution 2013-01, the Board of Review Poverty Exemption Guidelines; Adoption of Resolution 2013-02 Wade Trim Engineering Services 2013 Rate Schedule (at the 2009 Rate); Adoption of Resolution 2013-03 MDOT Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies and designate the Director of Public Works, Township Supervisor or Township Clerk to apply for permits on behalf of the Township; Reappointments of Vera Ireland, Mary Korgal and Helen Wylie to the September Days Senior Center Endowment Committee with terms to expire January 15, 2014.] as presented. Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Hart moved, Budd seconded to open the public hearing to hear public comment on the use of fiscal year 2013-14 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Miller, McClanahan, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

Supervisor Combs opened the public hearing at 7:34 p.m. Supervisor Combs went to Director Carroll for an overview of the CDBG plan. Director Carroll stated the Township is seeking comments from the public for potential projects that would meet the CDBG funding guidelines. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) objectives of the CDBG program are for the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities. The three national objectives for projects are to benefit low/moderate income persons, prevent or eliminate slum and/or blight and to meet urgent community development needs. The estimated funding level for 2013-2014 CDBG Budget year is \$123,200.

Resident, John Delaney commented on the need for sidewalks along Belleville Road, noting during the Work Study meeting it was stated CDBG program would not be funding this project, but would be funded through another source such as the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Supervisor Combs confirmed

that CDBG funds could not be used for the sidewalk project and stated the DDA Director is looking into acquiring the necessary easements to have the sidewalks installed along Belleville Road.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing at 7:38 p.m. Budd moved Hart seconded to close the public hearing. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Budd, Hart, Jahr, McClanahan, Miller, Wright and Combs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Miller moved, Wright seconded to approve the second reading for adoption of Ordinance 12-11-2012, to amend the Township Zoning Ordinance, 06-02-92, as amended, to revise regulations pertaining to Wireless Communication. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Miller, McClanahan, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

\*(A synopsis of Ordinance 12-11-12 follows the minutes. A complete copy of the ordinance is available in the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd., during business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

**NEW BUSINESS:** Budd moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the use of fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014) Community Development Block Grant funds. Carried.

Jahr moved, Wright seconded to approve the appointment of Richard Gavalier to fill the vacant position on the Local Finance Development Authority (LDFA) with the term to expire on August 12, 2014. Carried.

Budd moved, Jahr seconded to approve the job description for Museum Director; to approve the Personal Services Agreement (Katie Dallos) for the Museum Director and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Agreement. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the job description for Executive Assistant; to approve the Personal Services Agreement (Karin LaMothe) for Executive Assistant; to amend the budget accordingly and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Agreement. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McClanahan, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: Miller. Absent: None. Carried.

**VOUCHER LIST:** Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the January 8, 2013 voucher list as presented. Carried.

**REPORTS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supervisor Combs stated for information regarding Recreation and Parks activities contact the Recreation Department.

**AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** Comments were made from 8:50 p.m. to 9:05 p.m. by the Board and audience regarding the following topics: Visteon; LDFA bonds; compliance officer; LDFA attendance policy; Planning Commission; special land use permits; revenues from permits; LDFA.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Hart moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Carried. Respectfully submitted, Leon Wright, Township Clerk  
Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor  
Published: January 17, 2013

**THE BELLEVILLE  
INDEPENDENT NOW ACCEPTS  
CREDIT CARDS!**  
(Minimum \$5 Purchase, Classified Ads Excluded)



## Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes December 11, 2012

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Vawters at 6:30 pm showing present: Supervisor Vawters, Treasurer J. Morgan, Trustees: Bates, Hamm, Swinson & P. Morgan. Excused absence Clerk Hoffman. Also present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hurst and approx. 20 residents.

**3. Agenda:** Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to approve the agenda with item D. added. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Public comments only on agenda items**

**5. Minutes:**

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hamm to approve regular board meeting minutes of November 27, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by Hamm, supported by Bates to approve public hearing meeting minutes of November 27, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by Bates, supported by Hamm to approve special board meeting minutes of December 3, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Warrants:** Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to pay warrants totaling \$563,205.45 and warrants thru the end of December 2012. Roll call vote: Yes: Vawters, J. Morgan, Bates, Hamm, Swinson, & P. Morgan. Nays: None. Absent: Hoffman. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Water & Sewer:** Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the water & sewer report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Police:** Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to approve the police report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Building:** Motion by J. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the building report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

**10. Fire:** Motion by Swinson, supported by P. Morgan

to approve the fire report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. Treasurer:** Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the treasurer's report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

**12. Supervisor:** Motion by Swinson, supported by P. Morgan to approve the supervisor's report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**13. Attorney:** No report.

**14. Board Response**

**15. New Business:**

A. Question/Answer forum by the Nature Conservancy (during workshop)

B. Motion by Hamm, supported by J. Morgan to approve the regular board meeting dates for 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the new appointment of Sharon Claxton to the Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to approve fire classes not to exceed \$6,500.00. Motion carried unanimously.

**16. Announcements**

**17. Open Floor**

**18. Adjournment:** Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to adjourn at 7:08 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on December 11, 2012 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Published: Jan. 17, 2013

**For Classified Advertising, Display Advertising or News Tips  
One call does it all: 734-699-9020 - The *Independent***

# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 12, 2013**, in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan 48111.

The Public Hearing relates to Parcel Number V125-83-047-99-0003-705 also known as 8881 Samuel Barton Drive. The subject site is located south of north of Tyler Road, south of Ecorse Road, west of I-275, and east of Haggerty Road, within the Charter Township of Van Buren, in an M-1 (Light Industrial) Zoning District.

The Board of Zoning Appeals will review a variance request for the construction of an addition to the existing building that will not meet the required minimum front setback established for the M-1 District as required by the Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance, 06-02-92 as amended.

**VARIANCE: ARTICLE XVII "Schedule of Regulations" minimum front setback required for a building in the M-1 zoning district.**

**Applicant is requesting a front setback of 30.7 feet; 19.3 feet less than the 50 foot setback required.**

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 4:00 p.m. on the date of the above referenced Public Hearing. You can contact the Department of Developmental Services at (734) 699-8913 for additional information.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Published: January 17, 2013

Posted: January 10, 2013



# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

On Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

|      |           |     |                   |          |
|------|-----------|-----|-------------------|----------|
| 1997 | FORD      | 4D  | 1FALP13P6VW213102 | 12-18003 |
| 1994 | MERCURY   | 4D  | 1MELM50U3RA647757 | 12-31394 |
| 2003 | CADILLAC  | 4D  | 1G6DM57N330150213 | 12-32135 |
| 1996 | TOYOTA    | 4D  | 2T1BA02E3TC139872 | 12-32297 |
| 2003 | ANDERSON  | TRL | 4YNBN16272C009992 | 12-32999 |
| 2004 | CHEVROLET | 4D  | 2G1WF52EX49308716 | 12-33856 |

At 11:30am, the auction will move to **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

|      |           |    |                   |          |
|------|-----------|----|-------------------|----------|
| 1993 | JEEP      | 4D | 1J4GZ78SXPC502844 | 12-31522 |
| 2002 | BUICK     | 4D | 1G4HP54K22U113513 | 12-31929 |
| 1997 | CHEVROLET | SW | 1GNDT13W4V2140442 | 12-33252 |
| 1995 | CHEVROLET | 4D | 1G1BL52P9SR134021 | 12-33634 |

All vehicles are sold in “as is condition.” Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright,  
Van Buren Township Clerk  
Published: January 17, 2013

“Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising.”  
*Mark Twain*

# Attention Singers: Community Chorus starts spring rehearsals

The Belleville Community Chorus under the direction of Susan Hiser will start rehearsals for its spring concert season at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 28, at First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street, Belleville.

If you enjoy singing, the Community Chorus invites you to join them. The chorus is a non-profit organization made up of volunteers of all ages who love to sing. They perform a variety of choral music for the enrichment, education, and enjoyment of

their members and audiences in Belleville and the surrounding communities.

Not a singer? The chorus is also looking for a few folks who would be willing to help coordinate the organization behind the scenes.

If you have questions or would like more information, call Lori Day at 734-660-0797, email: [loriday205@gmail.com](mailto:loriday205@gmail.com) or go to [www.Bellevillechorus.org](http://www.Bellevillechorus.org).

# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS GRASS CUTTING AND RELATED SERVICES

The Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, MI is requesting proposals for grass cutting and related services for the enforcement of the Township’s Grass and Weeds Ordinance. Bid forms are available at the Township Clerk’s Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, from 7:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday. Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday, February 19, 2013, and should be submitted to the Clerk’s office. Bids may be submitted by U.S. Mail, personal service, or courier service, and no bids submitted by facsimile or electronically will be accepted. The bids will be publicly opened following the bid deadline. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and is not required to accept the low bid. The Township is an equal opportunity contractor, which does not discriminate based on race, sex, creed, or physical ability. If you have any questions regarding the bid specifications, please contact Development Services at (734) 699-8913.

Published: January 17, 2013

# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF FINAL USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

On Tuesday, January 8, 2013, in accordance with guidelines of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Charter Township of Van Buren held a public hearing on the proposed use of the Township’s 2013-2014 Community Development Block funds. The Public Hearing was held at 7:30 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Hall located at 46425 Tyler Road.

The estimated funding level for 2013-2014 CDBG Budget year is \$123,200. The CDBG program gives priority to those qualified activities that further national objectives. Those objectives are:

- Assist low and moderate income persons
- Address slum and blight conditions
- Meet a particular urgent community development need

The following projects are proposed to be submitted to the Urban County of Wayne for funding:

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Rehabilitation of Single Unit Residential Housing of Low to Moderate Income Persons:  | \$92,000         |
| • Payment of construction costs to make code improvements to single family houses owned by low and moderate income persons Township wide. |                  |
| Public Services – Senior Citizen Services:  | \$10,400         |
| • Partial reimbursement of Senior Citizen Director’s salary   |                  |
| Public Services – Youth Services:   | \$10,400         |
| • Parks and Recreation – Takin’ It to the Streets   |                  |
| Administration:   | \$10,400         |
| • Reimbursement of Township staff time to administer the program  |                  |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDING:</b>   | <b>\$123,200</b> |

Written comments will be accepted regarding the selection of any or all of these projects can be submitted to the Department of Developmental Services until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 1, 2013.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance if requesting accommodations.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk  
Charter Township of Van Buren

Publish: January 17, 2013

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING  
Van Buren Township  
Board of Trustees  
4 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17**  
In the Board Room at Township Hall,  
46425 Tyler Road  
To consider the second amendment to  
the Detroit Water and Sewer Department  
contract

# AUCTION

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
**Notice is hereby given that on**  
**01-30-13 at 9:00 a.m., or after, the contents**  
**of the following storage units will be sold**  
**by competitive bidding at:**  
**U-Lock-It Self Storage LLC**  
**6130 Rawsonville Rd.**  
**Belleville, MI 48111**  
**(734) 482-1502**  
**SPACE #H-14,** Anthony Williams – 6 patio chairs, 1 fan, big tool box, 4 tires, drum set, snow blower, patio table, treadmill, assorted tools, shredder, file cabinet, misc. items  
**SPACE #F-69,** Decilla Davenport – 3 boxes, 2 kitchen chairs, 1 upholstered chair, 1 dresser, end table, TV stand, entertainment center, kitchen items, misc. items  
**SPACE #I-29,** Shane Craig – baby crib, 2 box springs, 2 mattresses, 15 boxes, 1 upholstered chair, 2 dressers, 1 floor lamp, microwave oven, pair of speakers, night stand, entertainment center, propane heater, office chair, car jack  
**SPACE #I-28,** Alicia Phillips – washing machine, dryer, coat rack bench, baby swing  
**SPACE #G-9,** Nicolle Graham – sofa, glass top dining room table, 1 cushion

# Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*The following are selected runs for VBT Police.*  
For more detailed police logs, see [www.bellevilleareaindependent.com](http://www.bellevilleareaindependent.com).

**Sunday, Jan. 6:**  
0020 – sexual assault, 16 Oak Blvd.  
0255 – intimidation threat, 86 N. Ponderosa Trl.  
0854 – property damage accident, 9927 Hamilton  
1237 – assault & battery, 9652 Sawgrass Ct.  
1332 – larceny, 46080 Lake Villa Dr.  
1459 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Village Green  
1501 – fraud, Meijer  
1619 – private property accident, Meijer  
1720 – larceny, 9314 Parkwood  
1815 – noise complaint, 9333 Parkwood Dr.  
1836 – agency assist, Village Park  
2117 – assault & battery, 13745 Sumpter  
2343 – noise complaint, Fisher/Harmony Ln.

**Monday, Jan. 7:**  
0236 – assault & battery, 48611 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0650 – property damage accident, Martinsville / E. Huron River Dr.  
0727 – breaking & entering motor vehicle, 7048 Belle Pointe Dr.  
0731 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 46080 Lake Villa Dr.  
1033 – larceny from auto, 262 S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1216 – larceny from auto, 45224 Greenbriar Dr.  
1529 – assault & battery, 51360 Michigan Ave.  
1544 – private property accident, 42834 Stratford  
1621 – intimidation threat, 41873 Ecorse  
1738 – larceny from auto, 45180 Brookview Dr.  
1911 – malicious destruction of property, 47231 Ayres Ave.  
1943 – operating while intoxicated, Meijer  
1955 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.  
2038 – harassment call, 8721 Hardwood Dr.

**Tuesday, Jan. 8:**  
0025 – malicious destruction of property, 41577 S. Bellridge Dr.  
0047 – trespassing, 42542 N. Cumberland Dr.  
0727 – private property accident, 2141 Rawsonville Rd.  
0801 – private property accident, 8601 Haggerty  
0808 – assault & battery, 47001 Waters Edge Ln.  
0823 – intimidation threat, 39 Birch Dr.  
0920 – dumping complaint, 13217 Lake Point Blvd.  
0951 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 11086 Oak Ln.  
1009 – assault & battery, 8940 Parkwood Dr.  
1224 – harassment call, 47001 Waters Edge Ln.  
1231 – assault & battery, 46425 Tyler Rd.  
1301 – property damage accident, Bemis/Sumpter  
1328 – private property accident, 175 Rawsonville  
1405 – fraud, 46425 Tyler Rd.  
1503 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Haggerty Rd.  
1515 – juvenile complaint, EB I-94/Belleville  
1527 – malicious destruction of property, 51341 W. Huron River Dr.  
1632 – trespassing, 46161 Village Green Ln.  
1656 – assault & battery, 49241 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1710 – disturbance, 1 Village Center Dr.  
1742 – assault & battery, 8 Maple Dr.

1805 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, 46425 Tyler Rd.  
2014 – disturbance, 45945 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2117 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 6921 Sheldon Rd.  
2155 – larceny from auto, 6921 Sheldon Rd.  
2247 – personal injury accident, Michigan/Ecorse  
2329 – suicide or attempt, 15851 Martinsville Rd.

**Wednesday, Jan. 9:**  
0037 – assault & battery, 51207 Sylvia Dr.  
0510 – hospice, 45705 Wildrye Ct.  
0551 – property damage accident, 10286 Quirk Rd.  
0824 – fraud, 51063 Freedom Way  
0832 – property damage accident, 42116 Lincoln  
1011 – missing person, 219 S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1621 – larceny, 25 Owen  
1806 – property damage accident, S. Service / Diamondback  
1902 – property damage accident, Quirk/Ayres  
1953 – disturbance, 48941 Denton Rd.  
2025 – malicious destruction of property, 6225 Truman

2024 – assault & battery, 48641 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2318 – assault & battery, 41440 S. Bellridge Dr.  
2329 – agency assist, Hull/Sumpter  
2347 – larceny, Haggerty/Tyler

**Thursday, Jan. 10:**  
0109 – noise complaint, Sumpter/Chaney  
0843 – property damage accident, EB I-94/E. of Rawsonville  
0937 – harassment call, 15550 Bak Rd.  
1031 – trespassing, Village Green  
1100 – private property accident, J&T  
1105 – larceny, 13000 Haggerty Rd.  
1243 – agency assist, Bog/Rawsonville  
1311 – animal bite, 42810 Patty Ln.  
1337 – local ordinance, 45501 N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1412 – local ordinance, 45501 N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1437 – breaking & entering, 6 Maple Dr.  
1536 – private property accident, 41440 Bellridge  
1555 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Tyler  
1609 – suicide or attempt, 9880 Haggerty Rd.  
1640 – property damage accident, Van Born / Sheldon

1726 – retail fraud, Meijer  
1847 – property damage accident, Michigan / Denton  
1853 – disturbance, 15241 Brookside Dr.  
1947 – agency assist, Savage/Arlene  
2031 – breaking & entering, 6415 E. Sadie Ln.  
2227 – assault & battery, 9065 Parkwood Dr.  
2322 – assault & battery, 50800 Martz Rd.

**Friday, Jan. 11:**  
0239 – suspicious person, Metro Park Party  
1006 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / I-94  
1446 – fraud, 7248 Fay Dr.  
1552 – fight, 8 Ash Dr.  
1605 – fraud, Meijer  
1708 – missing person, 6622 Country Ln.  
2048 – noise complaint, 41511 N. Bellridge Dr.

**Saturday, Jan. 12:**  
1030 – suicide or attempt, 46800 Bemis Rd.  
1156 – intimidation threat, 9961 Beck  
1446 – malicious destruction of property, Walmart  
1516 – malicious destruction of property, 48880 Denton Rd.  
1610 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1802 – fraud, Meijer  
2012 – fraud, Meijer  
2050 – noise complaint, 11199 Oak Ln.  
2128 – trespassing, 56 Park Estates  
2147 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville/I-94  
Also on this week’s log were 200 traffic stops, 33 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

# Belleville Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, Jan. 6:**  
1418 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court  
1515 – miscellaneous complaint, 6 Main St.  
1834 – suspicious situation, Village Park

**Monday, Jan. 7:**  
0433 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court  
0953 – miscellaneous complaint, 129 South St.  
1125 – assist fire dept., 16 San Carlos St.  
1206 – sexual assault, 509 Estrada  
1320 – parking complaint, Sec. of State  
1401 – background investigation, 6 Main St.  
1421 – property damage accident, Main/Second  
1508 – disturbance, 6 Main St.

1550 – property damage accident, High/Huron River Dr.  
1611 – miscellaneous complaint, Belle Plaza  
1739 – assist fire dept., 160 Church St.  
2020 – abandoned auto, N. Liberty St./E. Huron River Dr.  
2032 – property check, Hillside  
2246 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 222 Belle Villa Blvd.

**Tuesday, Jan. 8:**  
0102 – noise complaint, 200 Henry St.  
0752 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court  
0925 – civil matter, 56 Wabash Ave.  
1829 – property check, Hillside  
2008 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.  
2322 – alarm intrusion, 300 W. Davis St.

**Wednesday, Jan. 9:**  
0229 – civil matter, 291 Henry St.  
0834 – property damage accident, South St./W. Wabash Ave.  
1101 – property check, 575 E. Thornhill Ct.  
1616 – unattended death, 16 Loza Lane  
1726 – larceny, 25 Owen  
1754 – motorist assist, Main/First  
1913 – assist fire dept., 75 Carmell St.  
1934 – intrusion alarm, 300 W. Davis St.  
2106 – intrusion alarm, 562 Main St.

**Thursday, Jan. 10:**  
0049 – disorderly conduct, Main/High  
0057 – suspicious situation, 615 Sumpter  
0108 – suspicious person, 25 Main, minimart  
0410 – hospice, 4 Menlo Park Dr.  
0502 – assist fire dept., 500 N. Liberty St.  
0704 – miscellaneous complaint, BHS  
0715 – holdup alarm, 405 Main St., museum, false alarm  
1005 – suspicious vehicle, 337 S. Industrial Park  
1019 – assist fire dept., 6 Main St.  
1321 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court

1630 – mental, 168 N. Liberty St.  
1729 – background investigation, 6 Main St.  
1831 – assist fire dept., 35 Carmell St.  
1909 – motorist assist, Liberty/Bridge  
1939 – larceny from auto, 36 Main St.  
2235 – intrusion alarm, BHS  
2250 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 222 Belle Villa Blvd.  
2305 – assist fire dept., 500 N. Liberty St.

**Friday, Jan. 11:**  
0855 – assault & battery, 272 Henry  
1227 – property damage accident, Main/Huron River Drive  
1301 – juvenile complaint, BHS  
1440 – narcotics crime, 45201 Owen St., Owen School  
1603 – miscellaneous complaint, 301 W. David  
1609 – suspicious vehicle, 337 S. Industrial Park  
1630 – serve warrant, 575 Columbia  
1630 – hospice, 20 Menlo Park Dr.  
1921 – assault & battery, 107 Potter Dr.  
2027 – miscellaneous complaint, 6 Main St.  
2211 – property check, Hillside

**Saturday, Jan. 12:**  
0019 – intrusion alarm, 430 Main St.  
0552 – intrusion alarm, 31 E. Huron River Dr.  
0834 – intrusion alarm, BHS  
1736 – water leak found, 305 High St.  
2143 – operating while intoxicated, Main/Fifth  
2209 – intrusion alarm, BHS  
Also on this week’s log are 79 traffic stops.

# Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, Jan. 6:**  
0050 – 911 hangup, Carriage Lane  
0332 – larceny, 19000 bl. Clark Rd.  
0817 – mental health commitment, 9600 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1054 – alarm, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1057 – suspicious incident, 18000 bl. Martinsville  
1159 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
1726 – civil dispute, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.  
2042 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2045 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.

**Monday, Jan. 7:**  
0258 – suspicious vehicle, Willow/Karr  
0751 – follow-up investigation 23000 bl. Sumpter  
0755 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
0757 – civil dispute, Montana  
0947 – suspicious incident, 45000 bl. Victoria Ave.  
1131 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1217 – fire dept. assist, Oregon  
1331 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1439 – suicide, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1452 – alarm, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1602 – follow-up investigation, 20000 bl. Elwell  
1706 – follow-up investigation, 20000 bl. Elwell  
1732 – civil dispute, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.  
1846 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
2052 – follow-up investigation, 42000 bl. Arkona  
2103 – suspicious incident, 6700 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.

**Tuesday, Jan. 8:**  
0755 – juvenile complaint, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1038 – follow-up investigation, Redwood  
1137 – suspicious incident, New Mexico  
1226 – follow-up investigation, 17000 bl. Sumpter  
1309 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis  
1439 – property damage accident, Willis/Lohr  
1934 – well-being check, 50000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
1945 – shots fired, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2301 – warrant arrest, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

**Wednesday, Jan. 9:**  
0304 – warrant arrest, Willis/Rawsonville  
0746 – follow-up investigation, 46000 bl. Traskos  
0929 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1138 – threats complaint, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1142 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1154 – warrant arrest, Bemis/Rawsonville  
1225 – larceny, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1725 – suspicious person, Bemis/Sumpter  
1751 – civil dispute, 39000 bl. Willow Rd.  
2319 – mental health commitment, Pecan

**Thursday, Jan. 10:**  
0700 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1537 – follow-up investigation, out of township  
1805 – subpoena service, 5500 bl. Oakville Waltz  
1903 – civil dispute, 39000 bl. Willow Rd.  
2113 – civil dispute, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.  
2259 – suspicious incident, Sumpter/Willow

**Friday, Jan. 11:**  
0814 – fire dept. assist, 5400 bl. Oakville Waltz  
0956 – threats complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.  
0959 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
1104 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.  
1427 – assist other agency, Belleville High School  
1713 – civil dispute, 39000 bl. Willow Rd.  
2009 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2030 – subpoena service, out of township  
2058 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
2101 – suspicious incident, 17000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
2251 – family trouble, 28000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

**Saturday, Jan. 12:**  
1020 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Bemis  
1244 – follow-up investigation, 39000 bl. Willow  
1338 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1420 – civil dispute, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1426 – property damage accident, Willow / Rawsonville  
1459 – disorderly person, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1543 – property damage accident, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.

1700 – civil dispute, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.  
1804 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1957 – alarm, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2034 – 911 hang up, 19000 bl. Wilmot Rd.  
2104 – subpoena service, out of township  
Also on this week’s log were 21 miscellaneous details, 139 patrol checks, and 33 traffic stops.

## Court Watching:

## Tin Pan burglar to go back to court on Friday before Judge Ewell

By Diane Madigan  
*Independent* Court Reporter

On Monday morning Charles Clifford Craig, 20, of Van Buren Township stood mute on charges of breaking and entering with intent and larceny from a building at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

The break-in occurred Dec. 29 at Tin Pan Saloon in Sumpter Township. The B&E charge is a 10-year felony and the larceny charge a 4-year felony.

A not-guilty plea was entered on Craig’s behalf by public defender Donald Johnson. Circuit Court Judge Kenneth King ordered Craig “bound over for further court proceedings” on Friday, Jan. 18.

Judge King was filling in for Judge Wade McCree, who has been on indefinite administrative leave since Dec. 8.

From a blind draw it was determined that Craig will go before Judge Ewell on Friday.

Craig is out of the Wayne County Jail after posting the \$25,000 or 10% bond.



## Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



**Liberty Tax Service** has opened up an office on Belleville Road in the plaza behind Penzoil Oil Change. Right now, get \$50 cash with every paid federal tax preparation. Offer is valid through Feb. 14. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. Call **(734) 325-7011**.

\*\*\*

**Sumpter Township Parks & Recreation Department** will be holding its annual **Mardi-Gras Party** on Saturday, Feb. 9, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the **Sumpter PNA Hall** on Sumpter Road. Tickets are \$30 each. Food will be provided by **Debbie Shanks**, catering and music by **American DJ**. Must be 21 years or older, please. Tickets are available at township hall. Proceeds go to Parks & Recreation. The event is expected to sell out.

\*\*\*

**Belleville Coney Island** on Sumpter Road is offering new daily lunch specials at \$4.99, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Seniors can also get great dinner deals Monday through Saturday, from 2 to 9 p.m., at \$5.49 each. See their ad in today's paper for the details. Call **(734) 325-7551**

\*\*\*

**Junior Jazzercise** is being held on Jan. 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the **Van Buren Township Recreation Center**. The program is geared for children 5-11 years of age. The



*Independent photo by Bob Mytych*

The new Janowiak Funeral Home on Sumpter Road, just south of Willis Road in Sumpter, held its ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Belleville Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 11 followed by an open house. From left, are Phyllis Smith, the Rev. Marty Carter, Sharon Claxton, Evyind Claxton, Linda Combs, Leon Wright, Sharry Budd, Alan Bates, Bob Thorne, Sandra Janowiak, Richard Smith, Geoff Janowiak, Chris Janowiak, Johnny Vawters, Randy Brown, Scott R. Beard, Linda LaBelle, unknown, Rick Dawson, Clarence Hoffman, Jim Chudzinski, John Morgan, Judge David Parrott, and M.J. Dawson. The funeral home also held an open house in the afternoon on Sunday, Jan. 13.

cost is \$20 per child per session and siblings will be discounted. The group will meet monthly through May. To register, call Holly Haddell at **(734) 644-4656**. Next month's session is scheduled for Feb. 22.

\*\*\*

A bowling fundraiser to benefit the local **Boys & Girls Club** will take place on Feb. 2, at 1:30 p.m. at the **Lodge Lanes** in Belleville. Registration will start at 1 p.m. The cost is \$20 for adults, \$10 for children. The price includes 3 games of bowling, pizza, and shoe rental.

\*\*\*

The **Bayou Grill** on Main Street is offering a buy one entrée and get the second one half off on **Martin Luther King Day** this Monday, Jan. 21. Simply present their ad coupon in today's paper. The Bayou is also gearing up for their football Sunday event on Feb. 3. Ask your server for those details. Call **(734) 697-2300**.

\*\*\*

The *Independent* is giving away free color. Simply advertise with us for the next 52 weeks (one year) and get free color. If you're

a customer who's been advertising with us for the whole time anyway, you might want to consider this.

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\*\*\*

## THANK YOU! TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS WHO MADE OUR FIRST-ANNUAL SUMPTER TOWNSHIP HOLIDAY DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS!

Debra Shanks of Deb's Catering, Craig Moody - Chair, Sherrie Shankle, Karen Armatis, Roxanne Bardell, Alan Bates, Virginia Belinski, Belleville Church of God, Rick Dawson, M.J. Dawson, Karen Demmy, Debi Hagerman, John Hagerman, Bill Hamm, Chris Hamm, Denise Komora, Karen Mickens, Leona Mixon,



Kim Nofz/Gleaners Food Bank, Tiffany Moody, Joe Prieur, Vicki Prieur, Margaret Rochon, Michele Roman, Tara Roman, Peggy Morgan, Kat Oliverson, Robin Powell, Gregory Sanders, Lettie Sanders, Shauna Spoonamore, Johnny Vawters, Mary Ann Watson, Shawn Winekoff-Richmond, and Randy Lynch.

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**Bronze (\$50 & up)**  
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**Individual**  
Pete & Marci LaFramboise; Mr. Muffler; Higgerson & Neal; NAPA Auto Parts; Judge Brian Oakley; Karen Demmy; Peggy Morgan; Monica & Shannon Benedict Blue; Aretha Carter; Girls Town; James Pedersen

**Over 180 dinners were served and 40 Gift Food Baskets were passed out at the dinner. Thirty more Food Baskets were delivered.**

**Thank you, Sumpter Township**



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